views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holdig wider consultation with the State Governments and others concerned, efforts for which are on.

Vacant Posts for SCs/STs

†2068. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts out of total Group-A category posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, at present; and

(b) the number of posts vacant in the Central Government and State Governments, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Information in respect of Central Government is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. The Central Government does not maintain information regarding State Governments and that is done by the State Government concerned.

Pending corruption cases

2069. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption cases, which are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation, pending trial in different courts of the country, as on date;

(b) the reasons for the long pendency of the cases; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early trial of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

as on 30.6.2001, total of 4231 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which were investigated by the CBI are pending trial in different courts of the country. The reasons for delay in trial in Courts of cases pending are given in the statement (*see below*).

(c) To expedite trial of these cases pending in courts, Special Courts have been set up in some States exclusively for trial of the CBI cases. The CBI is also taking necessary action to expedite trial of cases in Courts and where trials have been stayed by the Supreme Court/High Courts, efforts are being made to get the stay vacated. Instructions have also been issued by the CBI to its Branches to ensure that witnesses are produced in the courts on scheduled dates and frequent adjournments sought by the defence advocates are contested. CBI Branches have also been instructed to review and prune the list of documents required to be exhibited and witnesses examined to avoid duplication and delay in recording of prosecution evidence.

Statement

Reasons for delay in trial in Courts

(i) Stay on trials by the orders of Supreme Court/High Courts.

(ii) Dilatory tactics adopted by defence by way of filling inter locutary petitions/Revision applications in higher Courts.

(iii) Frequent adjournments on the request of defence Counsels.

(iv) In most of the cases a large number of documents are required to be exhibited and witnesses examined.

(v) Non availability/appearance of witnesses in Courts on scheduled dates.

(vi) Due to heavy work load in the Courts, long dates are given for hearing.